

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/364,159

Examiner

Andrew Schechter

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

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2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of 3 September 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,6 and 12-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 July 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 12-15 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not disclose the device of claims 2, in particular the limitations that the display and back-surface electrodes are patterned in the same shape, that the back-surface electrode is connected to the TFT's active layer via a contact hole, and has a thickness greater than 200 Angstroms and less than or equal to 1500 Angstroms, and that the back-surface electrode is a high melting point metal. Claim 2 is therefore allowed, as are dependent claims 3, 6, and 15.

The prior art does not disclose the device of claim 12, in particular the limitations that the display and back-surface electrodes are patterned in the same shape, that the back-surface electrode is connected to the TFT's active layer via a contact hole and has a thickness greater than 200 Angstroms and less than or equal to 1500 Angstroms, and that the contact hole is formed between the one end portion of the back-surface electrode and the part of the active layer. (For instance, *Shintani* discloses that the contact hole is formed between the back-surface electrode and an intermediate layer [9a], rather than between the back-surface electrode and a part of the active element itself.) Claim 12 is therefore allowed.

The prior art does not disclose the reflective LCD of claim 13, in particular the limitations of surface electrode and back-surface electrode in the same shape, back-

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surface electrode on a smoothened film with a contact hole, and the back-surface electrode made of a high melting point metal and having a thickness greater than 200 Angstroms and less than or equal to 1500 Angstroms. Claim 13 is therefore allowed.

The prior art does not disclose the device of claim 14, in particular the limitations that the display and back-surface electrodes are patterned in the same shape, that the back-surface electrode is connected to the TFT's active layer via a contact hole, and has a thickness greater than 200 Angstroms and less than or equal to 1500 Angstroms, and that the back-surface electrode is made of a non-oxide metal. Claim 14 is therefore allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

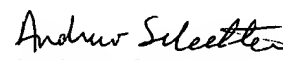
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Schechter whose telephone number is (571) 272-2302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Andrew Schechter
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800
21 October 2004